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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments.

The foregoing amendments are believed to place the application in condition for immediate allowance and to require no more than a cursory review by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants further believe that no stringent showing under 37 CFR § 1.116(b) is required. Thus, most of the amendments are merely in the form of editorial changes. Applicants have amended claim 6 in new step a) to refer to reciprocal salt exchange. This language is supported by the third paragraph on page 4. Applicants do not believe that any of the amendments introduce new matter. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The sole issue for consideration is the rejection of claims 6, 7 and 11-14 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have added method steps to claims 6 and 7. Also, claim 7 has been amended to obviate the need for antecedent basis for the queried term in claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the Examiner would be fully justified to reconsider and to withdraw this rejection. An early notice that this rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

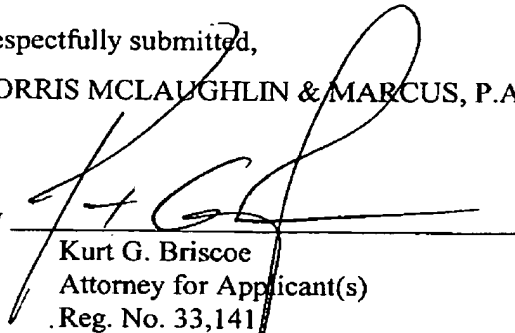
Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a bona fide response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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